

ZONE SNAPSHOT

Airport Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Project **Flagstaff Fire Department**

The Flagstaff Fire Department (FFD) received a 2009 Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels grant to selectively thin 300 acres of City owned property around Pulliam Airport. This project is adjacent to the USDA Forest Service Mountainaire project on the Coconino National Forest that was implemented to protect Flagstaff - an at risk community. Phase 1 is a 134 acre site designated for contract (map to Objectives include reducing wildfire risk, increasing health of the forested area, and establishing Tassel Eared Squirrel Winter Core areas to evaluate treatment prescriptions that address wildfire risk reduction needs and also benefit wildlife.

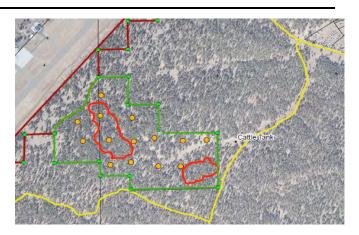
FFD collaborated with AZ Game and Fish, the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership (GFFP), staff from the Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) at Northern Arizona University (NAU), and the NAU School of Forestry to develop a silviculture prescription to meet the objectives.

Design and layout of the Airport project started in the fall of 2009 with completion expected to occur in 2013.

Tasks to date include:

AZ Game and Fish surveyed the site for Tassel Eared Squirrel activity and delineated boundaries for the winter core areas.





- NAU School of Forestry class established plots and gathered initial stand date.
- ERI marked the non winter cores area based on existing pre-settlement evidences at a 1:1 or one replacement tree per evidence.
- FFD delineated stand boundaries, marked trees to meet the winter core area objective of clumps/groups with interlocking canopies for squirrel habitat, and developed a Request for Proposal for thinning activities by a contractor, and will administer the contract.
- GFFP, along with ERI and FFD, hosted a workshop describing and providing hands on application of evidence based marking to local contractors (photo to left), and will gather existina data and conduct lona monitoring of the site to ensure objectives are met.

Future goals include developing educational opportunities for students, the public, and agencies to visit this project as a demonstration of the compatibility of wildlife and hazardous fuels reduction objectives.

This is the second effort with involved partners to design projects incorporating hazardous fuel reduction and wildlife objectives.

More information on the FFD Wildfire Management program can be found at www.flagstaff.az.gov/wildlandfire.